

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 217828 TOSEC 250056

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY S/S:PBRIDGES:GK

APPROVED BY S/S:BRIDGES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 217828 TOSEC 250056

NODIS

CHEROKEE

FOLLOWING REPEAT SINGAPORE 4138 ACTION SECSTATE 02 SEP 76

QUOTE S E C R E T SINGAPORE 4138

NODIS

CHEROKES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT

REF: SINGAPORE 4116

1. FOREIGN MINISTER RAKARATNAM'S PURPOSE IN CALLING
ME TO FOREIGN MINISTRY SEPTEMBER 2 WAS TO INFORM ME OF
LETTER SENT TO PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW BY AMBASSADOR
MONTEIRO ASKING IF IT WOULD BE CONVENIENT FOR THE SECRETARY
AND MRS. KISSINGER TO VISIT SINGAPORE LATTER PART OF
OCTOBER FOLLOWING VISIT BY SECRETARY AND MRS. KISSINGER
TO THE PHILIPPINES. RAJARUTNAM STATED ON BEHALF OF
PRIME MINISTER LEE THAT VISIT BY THE SECRETARY AND MRS.
KISSINGER IN THIS TIME FRAME WOULD BE WELCOME, WITH THE
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PROVISO THAT PRIME MINISTER LEE AND MRS. LEE WOULD BE

PAYING OFFICIAL VISIT TO AUSTRALIA OCTOBER 17-29. THE SECRETARY AND MRS. KISSINGER WOULD BE WELCOME IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD, PERHAPS ALLOWING TIME OF DAY OR SO FOR PRIME MINISTER LEE TO PICK UP THE THREAD OF EVENTS IN SINGAPORE FOR ABOUT A DAY FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM AUSTRALIA. FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM WENT ON TO SAY THAT IF THIS TIMING DID NOT SUIT THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR PRIME MINISTER LEE TO KNOCK A DAY OR TWO OFF HIS STAY IN AUSTRALIA.

2. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE SECRETARY AND MRS. KISSINGER WILL BE WELCOME GUESTS IN SINGAPORE. A PROPOSAL OF POSSIBLE READJUSTMENT IN SCHEDULE OF PRIME MINISTER LEE'S AUSTRALIA VISIT, AT LUNCHEON IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MY MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, I HEARD DEPUTY PERMSEC TAN BOON SENG TELL AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER BIRCH THAT TIME PRIME MINISTER LEE WAS SPENDING IN AUSTRALIA SEEMED A BIT LONG, AND THAT SINGAPORE MIGHT REQUEST VISIT BE SHORTENED BY TWO DAYS OR SO. I LATER VERIFIED WITH TAN BOON SENG THAT THIS CURTAILMENT WAS IN PART IN ANTICIPATION OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO SINGAPORE. I DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT ANY FURTHER ADJUSTMENT IN PRIME MINISTER LEE'S AUSTRALIAN VISIT WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT OFFENDING THE AUSTRALIANS.
HOLDRIDGE
UNQUOTE ROBINSON.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, ITINERARY, CAT-A, INVITATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, CHEROKEE 09/02/76
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE217828
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PBRIDGES:GK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: N760006-0609
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760996/aaaadelt.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 SINGAPORE 4116
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S VISIT
TAGS: OVIP, SN, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (LEE KUAN YEW), (RAJARATNAM, SINNATHAMBY)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006